

REMARKS

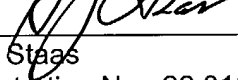
In accordance with the foregoing, claim 1 has been amended to better distinguish over the prior art and new claim 17 is presented to afford a differing scope of protection and which, as well, has been prepared with a view to distinguishing over the prior art-- that prior art including the newly cited European Patent Application publication No. 1065650 presented in an IDS concurrently filed with this Preliminary Amendment and related RCE.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: May 24, 2004

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